

Friday 9 October 2020



Update letter

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

It has been wonderful to welcome all the children back and us all be together again!

The pandemic continues to present a great deal of challenge for us all and is a great cause of anxiety and concern regards our health & safety.

In the spirit of openness and transparency I would like to share our current position in regards confirmed cases and class closures.

We have had one pupil test positive, the pupil tested positive during the phased return and as a result was not in school during their infectious period. Advice from Public Health England was that the class could remain open as there was no risk of transmission.

We have had two members of staff test positive, both are from the same class this class was closed and all the staff and pupils are currently self-isolating for 14 days.

We have had to close another class due to a reduction in staffing levels, as the staff were not able to attend work, one due to their own child needing to self-isolate and one who was unwell with a seasonal cough/cold.

I would like to offer my re-assurance that we are doing everything we can to ensure that everyone is as safe as they possibly can be during their time at school.

We have a thorough and detailed Risk Assessment in place which is reviewed on an on-going basis. We also have a thorough and detailed outbreak management plan and are following guidance from Public Health England (PHE).

We have a well-established and effective “bubble” system in place, we are aiming to keep our bubbles as small as possible, currently each class is their own bubble.

Below are some answers to some of the frequently asked questions we have received over the last few days.

Please also look at our COVID 19 page on the school website which has more information & advice.

<https://www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk/parents-carers/useful-info/covid-19-dfe-advice-and-guidelines>

<https://www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk/parents-carers/useful-info/covid-19-school-info>



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Notifying us of your child's illness or absence

Please contact a member of the Business Support Team (School Office), to inform us of your child's illness / absence. If your child is unwell or is displaying symptoms, please be ready to provide us with further information if we need it, e.g. their exact symptoms, when they started, if multiple symptoms the order they appeared. If your child been in contact with a confirmed case etc. Are any other members of your household experiencing symptoms? If your child is supported by member of staff outside of school hours e.g. Personal Assistant support. This will help us to give you the best possible information and support.

What measures do the school have in place to minimise contact & mixing?

We have a well-established and effective "bubble" system in place, we are aiming to keep our bubbles as small as possible, currently each class is their own bubble. We have an internal track and trace log, each class or staff-team bubble keeps a record of people that have entered their bubble, the reason for the visit and the duration. Children were possible travel to and from school seated as closely as possible to fellow members of their bubble. Pupils are supported on and off vehicles by a member of staff from their bubble. Lunches continue to be eaten in class bubbles and individual playtimes are allocated to each bubble.

What should I do if my child has a cold, cough, diarrhoea, or nausea?

To keep all class bubbles open, it is vital that they can be staffed with the correct number of staff. It is therefore essential that if your child has a heavy cold, persistent cough, sickness & diarrhoea etc that they must remain at home, until they are symptom free.

I know some of our pupils have pre-existing conditions, e.g. respiratory allergies, anxiety related tummy complaints, sensory stimulated related nausea. If your child is experiencing symptoms of their already documented condition they will be allowed to come to school. If this is something new, then they will need to stay at home until they are not experiencing symptoms. Staff numbers are crucial to the bubble remaining open, if a member/members of staff were to become ill and not be able to attend school, it is highly likely that bubble would need to close, as it could not be staffed safely.

Dropping children off at the beginning and collecting at the end of the day

Thank you all for your patience and support as we perfected our morning and afternoon drop-off / collection routine. We have all worked together and got a great system in place, please can I remind parents to drop and collect their children from the first gate. This ensures that we can minimise the amount of contact & mixing and reduce unnecessary congestion.





Visiting school

We are asking all our visitors including parents or carers to pre-arrange their visits where possible. All visitors need to enter the building via the main reception. Please wear a face covering, have your temperature taken and sanitise your hands, you will also need to fill in a visitor contact form, to support our track and trace procedures.

Learning from Home

If your child's bubble closes, the class teacher or teaching assistants will be in touch to discuss the learning at home support you and your child need.

I am anxious about my child returning full-time and would like to continue with a phased return.

If you are concerned about your child returning full-time, please get in touch with their class teacher and they can discuss what further support can be offered. You will not be fined for continued absence, but a referral to the Pupil Attendance Team, may need to happen to engage their services and support.

Other news

Star of the Week Assembly

We had our first Star of Week Assembly last week via MS teams, it was a fantastic opportunity to try out our new webcams. The children loved being able to see each other and for us all to be together albeit virtually, celebrating all their wonderful achievements. Please check out our Star of the Week area on the school website.

Parents/Carers Evening

Our Autumn term Parents & Carers Evening was planned to take place after the October half-term however we thought you would appreciate the opportunity to talk to your child's class team before then to find out how they have settled. The meetings will take place online using MS Teams (or alternatively a phone-call can be arranged) on Tuesday 20 October 4-6pm and Thursday 22 October 4-6pm. A letter will be coming out next week with further details.

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance, if they are not able to answer your question, they will pass this on and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be in touch.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Keep Safe 



Mr Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

